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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re application of: Shelia E. Johnson****Serial No: 10/657,832****Filed: 9/9/2003****For: Traveling Bag Protector****Art Unit: 3727****Examiner: Weaver, Sue A****RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 29 2006****Office Communication Dated 2/29/2006****CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented): A protective covering for a traveling bag

comprising:

a housing having substantially an equivalent shape to the traveling bag and a cavity dimensioned to encompass the traveling bag, the housing defined by an upper section and a lower section;

a slot within the upper section aligned over the handle of the covered traveling bag, the slot dimensioned to accommodate the handle of the covered traveling bag in a telescoped position therethrough;

at least one opening within the lower section dimensioned to accommodate the wheels and/or the stand of the covered traveling bag;

a front section having a cushioning means abutting the interior wall of

the front section;
the cushioning means having an equivalent shape to the front section
and being securely attached to the interior wall of the front section;
and
an inlet means providing access for insertion and removal of the
traveling bag into the cavity of the housing, the inlet means
strategically affixed to exterior surface of a section of the housing.

2. (cancel):

3. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the cushioning means partially spans the interior wall of the front section.
4. (original): The protective covering of claim 1 further comprising at least one first handle strategically placed and securely attached to the exterior surface of a first section of the housing.
5. (original): The protective covering of claim 4 further comprising at least one second handle strategically placed and securely attached to the exterior surface a second section of the housing.
6. (original): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein each section of the housing forms a panel having a polygonal shape.
7. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the lower section is made of a rigid material.
8. (currently amended): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the ~~bottom panel~~ lower section comprises the at least one ~~first~~ opening

adapted to accommodate the wheels supporting the traveling bag.

9. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 8 wherein the lower section comprises at least one second opening adapted to accommodate the stand of the traveling bag.

10. (original): The protective covering of claim 6 wherein the housing further comprises

a back panel, first side panel, and an opposite second side panel.

11. (original): The protective covering of claim 10 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

a releasable fastening means affixed horizontally across the back panel at an intermediate location dividing the back panel into an upper section and a lower section;

the back panel being defined by an adjoined upper edge, an adjoined lower edge, a detached side edge and a detached opposite side edge; and

when in the opened position, the upper section being pivoted upward along the upper edge and the lower section being pivoted downward along the lower edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering.

12. (original): The protective covering of claim 11 wherein the side edge and the opposite side edge have an attachable and a detachable means.

13. (currently amended): The protective covering of claim 10 wherein the

inlet means further comprises:

a releasable fastening means affixed vertically across the back panel at an intermediate location dividing the back panel into an left section and a right section;
the back panel being defined by an adjoined left edge, an adjoined right edge, a detached upper edge and a detached lower edge;
when in the opened position, the left section being pivoted outward along the left edge and the right section being pivoted outward along the right edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering.

14. (original): The protective covering of claim 13 wherein the upper edge and lower edge have attachable and detachable means.

15. (currently amended): The protective covering of claim 10 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

the back panel defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge;
a releasable fastening means affixed to the lower edge, the first side edge and the opposite second side edge; and
when in an opened position, the back panel pivots upward and downward along the upper edge.

16. (currently amended): The protective covering of claim 10 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

the upper section defined by a lower edge, upper edge, first side edge and an opposite second side edge;
a releasable fastening means affixed along the upper edge, the first side edge, and the opposite second side edge; and
when in a open position, the upper panel pivots forward and backward on the lower edge.

17. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises:

at least one side panel defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge; and
a releasable fastening means affixed to the upper edge, the lower edge, and the first side edge such that in an opened position the at least one side panel can pivot backward and forward along the second opposite side edge.

18. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises:

at least one side panel defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge;
a releasable fastening means affixed vertically across the at least one side panel at an intermediate location dividing the at least one side panel into an left section and a right section;
the at least one side panel being defined by an adjoined left edge, an

adjoined right edge, a detached upper edge and a detached lower edge; and

when in the opened position, the left section being pivoted outward along the left edge and the right section being pivoted outward along the right edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering therethrough.

19. (original): The protective covering of claim 18 wherein the left edge and the right edge have an attachable and a detachable means.

20. (currently amended): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the ~~inlet means housing~~ further comprises:

at least one side panel defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge;
a releasable fastening means affixed horizontally across the at least one side panel at an intermediate location dividing the at least one side panel into an upper section and a lower section;
the at least one side panel being defined by an adjoined upper edge, an adjoined lower edge, a detached side edge and a detached opposite side edge;
when in the opened position, the upper section being pivoted upward along the upper edge and the lower section being pivoted downward along the lower edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the cavity of the protective covering.

21. (original): The protective covering of claim 20 wherein the upper edge and lower edge have attachable and detachable means.

22. (original): The protective covering of claim 1 wherein the covered traveling bag is a bowling bag.

23. (original): A protective covering for a traveling bag comprising:
a housing defined by a first upper panel, a lower panel, a front panel,
and a back panel;
the housing having a cavity dimensioned to encompass the covered
traveling bag;
the back panel being defined by an adjoined lower edge, a detached
side edge, an opposite detached side edge, an upper edge;
a second upper panel attached to the upper edge of the back panel;
a first slot within the first upper panel proximately near its center
portion, the slot being dimensioned to accommodate the handle of the
covered traveling bag in a telescoped position extending upward
therethrough;
a second slot within the second upper panel proximately near its center
portion, the slot being dimensioned to accommodate the handle of the
covered traveling bag in a telescoped position extending upward
therethrough;
when in a closed position, the second upper panel overlying the first
upper panel;

the second upper panel being releasably connected to a side edge of the first upper panel; and
at least one opening within the lower panel dimensioned to accommodate the wheels and/or the stand of the covered traveling bag.

24. (previously presented): A protective covering for a bowling bag comprising:

a housing having substantially an equivalent shape to the bowling bag and a cavity dimensioned to encompass the bowling bag, the housing defined by an upper section, a side panel, an opposite second side panel, a front panel, a back panel and a lower section; a slot within the upper section aligned over the handle of the covered traveling bag, the slot dimensioned to accommodate the handle of the covered bowling bag in a telescoped position therethrough; at least one opening within the lower section dimensioned to accommodate the wheels and/or the stand of the covered traveling bag; and

an inlet means providing access for insertion and removal of the traveling bag into the cavity of the housing, the inlet means strategically affixed to exterior surface of a section of the housing.

25. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

a releasable fastening means affixed horizontally across the back panel at an intermediate location dividing the back panel into an upper section and a lower section;

the back panel being defined by an adjoined upper edge, an adjoined lower edge, a detached side edge and a detached opposite side edge; and when in the opened position, the upper section being pivoted upward along the upper edge and the lower section being pivoted downward along the lower edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering.

26. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

a releasable fastening means affixed vertically across the back panel at an intermediate location dividing the back panel into a left section and a right section;

the back panel being defined by an adjoined left edge, an adjoined right edge, a detached upper edge and a detached lower edge; when in the opened position, the left section being pivoted outward along the left edge and the right section being pivoted outward along the right edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering.

27. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

the back panel defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge;

a releasable fastening means affixed to the lower edge, the first side edge and the opposite second side edge; and

when in an opened position, the back panel pivots upward and downward along the upper edge.

28. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

the upper panel defined by a lower edge, upper edge, first side edge and an opposite second side edge;
a releasable fastening means affixed along the upper edge, the first side edge, and the opposite second side edge; and
when in a open position, the upper panel pivots forward and backward on the lower edge.

30. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the housing further comprises:

the first side panel and the opposite second side panel being defined by an upper edge, a lower edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge; and a releasable fastening means affixed to the upper edge, the lower edge, and the first side edge of either the first side panel or the opposite second side panel such that in an opened position the at least one side panel can pivot backward and forward along the second opposite side edge.

31. 31. (previously presented): The protective covering of claim 4 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises:

a releasable fastening means affixed vertically across either the first or the opposite second side panel at an intermediate location dividing a side panel into an left section and a right section; the side panel being further defined by an adjoined left edge, an adjoined right edge, a detached upper edge and a detached lower edge; and

when in the opened position, the left section being pivoted outward along the left edge and the right section being pivoted outward along the right edge, whereby the covered bag can be inserted into and removed from the protective covering therethrough.

32 previously presented): The protective covering of claim 24 wherein the inlet means further comprises: